

## TAFT'S MESSAGE ON CONSERVATION

### President Sends a Very Important Document to Congress

Urges That All Projects Now Under Way be Completed and Recommends That Bonds be Issued.

#### Asks That Congress Give Consideration to Annual Report of Secretary of the Interior.

By Associated Press  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—President Taft's message on conservation of natural resources sent to congress today is as follows:

To the senate and house of representatives:

In my annual message I reserved the subject of the conservation of our natural resources for discussion in a special message as follows:

In several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our natural resources and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extensive discussion than can be entered into in this communication. For this reason I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to congress on the subject of the improvement of our waterways; upon the reclamation of arid and swamp lands; upon the preservation of our forests and the reforestation of suitable areas; upon the reclassification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement, mineral, coal and phosphate lands and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power.

In 1860 we had a public domain of 1,055,911,288 acres. We have now 731,354,081 acres, confined largely to the mountain ranges and semi-arid plains. We have in addition, 363,035,275 acres of lands in Alaska.

The public lands were, during the earliest administrations, treated as a national asset for the liquidation of public debt and a source of reward for our soldiers and sailors. Later on they were donated in large amounts in aid of the construction of wagon roads and railways in order to open up regions in the West then almost inaccessible.

The principal land statutes were enacted more than a quarter of a century ago. The homestead act, the pre-emption and timber culture act, the coal land and the mining acts were among these. The rapid disposition of the public lands under the early statutes and the lax methods of distribution prevailing, due, I think, to the belief that these lands should pass rapidly into private ownership, gave rise to the impression that the public domain was legitimate prey for the unscrupulous, and that it was not contrary to good morals to circumvent land laws. This prodigal manner of distribution resulted in the passage of large areas of valuable lands and many of our natural resources into the hands of persons who felt little or no responsibility for promoting the national welfare through their development. The truth is that title to millions of acres of public lands was fraudulently obtained, and that the right to recover a large part of such lands for the government long since ceased by reason of statutes of limitation.

There has developed in recent years a deep concern in the public mind respecting the preservation and proper use of our natural resources. This has been particularly directed toward the conservation of resources of the public domain. The problem is how to save and how to utilize, how to conserve and still to develop; for no sane person can contend that it is for the common good that nature's blessings are only for unborn generations.

Among the most noteworthy reforms initiated by my distinguished predecessor were the vigorous prosecutions of land frauds and the bringing to public attention of the necessity for preserving the remaining public domain from further spoliation, for the maintenance and extension of our forest resources, and for the enactment of laws amending the obsolete statutes so as to retain government control over that part of the public domain in which there are valuable deposits of coal, oil and phosphate, and in addition thereto, to preserve control, under conditions favorable to the public, of lands, along the streams in which the fall of water can be made to generate water to be transmitted in the form of electricity many miles to the points of its use, known as "water power sites."

Investigation into violations of public land laws and prosecution of land frauds have been vigorously continued under my administration, as has been the withdrawal of coal lands for classification and valuation and the temporary withholding of power sites.

Since March, 1909, temporary withdrawals of power sites have been made on 162 streams and those withdrawals therefore cover 229 per cent more streams than were covered by the withdrawals made prior to that date.

The present statutes, except so far as they dispose of precious metals and purely agricultural lands, are not adapted to carry out the modern view of the best disposition of public lands to private ownership, under conditions offering, on the one hand, sufficient inducement to private capital to take them over for proper development with restrictive conditions and on the other hand, which shall secure to the public that character of control which will prevent a monopoly or misuse of the lands or their products.

The power of the secretary of the interior to withdraw from the operation of existing statutes tracts of land, the disposition of which under such statutes would be detrimental to the public interest, is not clear or satisfactory. This power has been exercised in the interest of the public, with the hope that congress might affirm the action of the executive by laws adapted to the new conditions.

Unfortunately congress has not thus far fully acted on the recommendations of the executive and the question as to what the executive is to do is, under the circumstances, full of difficulties. It seems to me it is the duty of congress now, by a statute, to validate withdrawals which have been made by the secretary of the interior and president and to authorize the secretary of the interior temporarily to withdraw lands pending submission to congress of recommendations as to legislation to meet the conditions or emergencies as they exist.

One of the most pressing needs in the matter of public land reform is that lands should be classified according to their principal value or use. This ought to be done by that department whose force is best adapted to that work. It should be done by the interior department through the geological survey. Much of the confusion, fraud, and contention which has existed in the past has arisen from the lack of an official and determinative classification of the public lands and their contents.

It is now proposed to dispose of agricultural lands, as such, and at the same time to reserve for other

disposition the treasure of coal, oil, asphaltum, natural gas and phosphate contained therein. This may be best accomplished by separating the right to mine from the title to the surface giving the necessary use of so much of the latter as may be required for the extraction of the deposits. The surface might be disposed of as agricultural land under the general agricultural statute, while the coal or other mineral would be disposed of by lease on a royalty basis, with provisions requiring a certain amount of development each year; and in order to prevent the use and cession of such lands with others of similar character seems to constitute a monopoly forbidden by law, the lease should contain suitable provision subjecting to forfeiture the interests of persons participating in such monopoly. Such law should apply to Alaska as well as to the United States.

It is exceedingly difficult to frame a statute to retain government control over a property to be developed by private capital in such a manner as to secure the governmental purpose and at the same time not to frighten away investment of the necessary capital. Hence it may be necessary by laws that are really only experimental, to determine from their practical operation what is the best method of securing the result aimed at.

The extent of the value of phosphate is hardly realized, and with the need that there will be for it as the years roll on and the necessity for fertilizing shall become more acute, this will be a product which will probably attract the greed of monopolists.

With respect to the public land which lies along the streams offering opportunity to convert water power into transmissible electricity, another important phase of the power question is presented. There are valuable power sites through all public land states. Opinion is held that the transfer of sovereignty from federal government to territorial governments as they become states, included water power in rivers except that owned by riparian proprietors. I do not think it necessary to go into a discussion of this somewhat mooted question of law. It seems to me sufficient to say that the man who owns and controls the land along the stream from which the power is to be converted and transmitted, owns land which is indispensable to the conversion and use of that power. I cannot conceive how the power in streams flowing through public lands can be made available at all except by using the land itself as the site for the construction of the plant by which the power is generated and converted and securing a right of way thereover for transmission lines. Under these conditions, if the government owns the adjacent lands—indeed, if the government is the riparian owner—it may control the use of water power by imposing proper conditions on the disposition of land necessary in the creation and utilization of water power.

Development in electrical appliances for the conversion of water power into electricity to be transmitted long distances has progressed so far that it is no longer problematical, but it is a certain inference that in the future power of water flowing in the streams to a large extent will take the place of natural fuels.

In the disposition of the domain already granted, many water power sites have come under absolute ownership and may drift into one ownership, so that all the water power under private ownership shall be a monopoly. If, however, the water power sites now owned by the government—and there are enough of them—shall be disposed

of, the result of class antagonism is due to the protectionist system.

By Associated Press  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—The dove of peace succeeded in getting reasonably near its perch today on the field occupied by the warring republican factions in the house. Representative Hayes of California, the mediator of the "insurgents," called on Taft and after he returned, reported that a truce had been arranged for the more or less permanent peace in the republican ranks was about to be announced. When a statement was issued from the white house, and another from the republican whip, Representative Dwight proved the announcement premature. According to Hayes, no agreement was reached and the matter went over until tomorrow. At this juncture the insurgents issued another statement saying, "an understanding had been reached." At this statement Hayes issued a statement and said while an understanding had been reached they would attend the caucus held for the choice of republican members on the investigating committee, but there is a question of future conferences on which there has been no agreement. Hayes remarked that the agreement in no way affected the issue as to the present system of control in the house of representatives. The house democrats announced they would hold a caucus Saturday night to nominate the minority members of the committee to investigate the Balinger-Pinchot affair. The democrats insist it is their right to name the minority members of the committee and if the majority declines to allow it, there is a prospect of a democratic and republican insurgent alliance upon the question.

By Associated Press  
LONDON, Jan. 14.—Tonight witnessed the close of the parliamentary election campaign conflict that will open the ballot boxes tomorrow for the first general election since 1906, and the death struggle between the two great political parties in state, the aristocrats and democrats.

"Vote to protect your vote" was the exhortation addressed to the people tonight by the liberal organ, which then portrays how the conflict presents itself to the liberals. On the opposing side is ranged every possible influence to support the privileged classes. The proof of the struggle is concentrated in the demand of the house of commons for the limitation of the powers of the peers in which may be found the fact that all attempts to make home rule a danger to the dissolution of the union factor in the contest has been unavailing. The two outstanding features of the campaign have been the determination of the liberals to concentrate the attention of the people on the constitutional struggle involved in the attempt of the peers to control the public purse, and the quick realization by the conservatives that the rejection of the budget had been mistaken. In an election speech at Islington tonight John Burns predicted the next revolution to arise in the United States where the result of class antagonism is due to the protectionist system.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—Official assurance was given Jack Gleason today that he would be granted the July fight permit which means the Jeffries-Johnson forty-five round contest will be held in this city on July 4.

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#### PEACE NOW REIGNS IN HALLS OF CONGRESS

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#### ENGLAND IS ON THE EVE OF BIG ELECTION

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#### DR. HAMMOND PASSES AWAY AT SAN FRANCISCO

##### Tonopah's Pioneer Physician Has Been Summoned to the Court Beyond.

Dr. C. L. Hammond is dead. For the last time the people of Tonopah have gazed in the face, a man who was known and respected by all. The news was flashed to the Bonanza last night by telegram and it seemed that the entire town suffered a depression in spirits. The first authentic information came in the following dispatch received at 11:03 p. m.:

W. W. Booth, Bonanza office, Tonopah:

"Dr. Hammond died at 9:45. Everything that medical skill could do to save him was done."

"SIDNEY CLARK."

An hour later came another message from Lane's hospital in San Francisco containing practically the same statement. The first, however, was sufficient to cast a gloom over this shop for Dr. Hammond was known and loved, not only by the personnel of this paper but by everyone in Tonopah.

Death resulted from a wound received in the line of duty. About three weeks ago Dr. Hammond was summoned to perform an operation on James Burns, who was afflicted with blood poison. During the operation the doctor received a scratch on his hand and this later developed into blood poisoning. Monday morning, accompanied by a nurse, he was taken to San Francisco where he entered the Lane hospital. A slight operation was performed Tuesday afternoon and from that hour his condition grew worse.

For the past three days many rumors have been current and last night shortly after 7 o'clock it was stated that the medico had passed away. This was a surmise as was proved later. J. Grant Crumley, of the Nevada club, received a dispatch last evening stating the condition of Dr. Hammond was worse. The first announcement of the death came as a thunder clap and

spread like lightning. The shock of the news was so sudden that many of the intimate friends of the physician refused to believe the report and only did so when it was verified.

Dr. Hammond was the pioneer physician of Tonopah, having come to this camp during the early days. When the plague of several years ago, which attracted world-wide attention, was at its height, Dr. Hammond worked night and day for the relief of the stricken people. Of himself there was never a thought, all efforts being directed to his less fortunate fellow men. He ranked as the leading physician and surgeon of southern Nevada and it is known that there are but few men in the west that could equal him in the knowledge of his life's work.

He is survived by a wife and two children who reside at Berkeley and who were at his bedside when the end came.

Catherine, the daughter, is aged 8, while Buster, the son, is 6 years old.

Dr. Hammond was a native of Joliet, Illinois and was 39 years of age. He was a member of Mizpah lodge No. 25, Knights of Pythias, Tonopah lodge 1062, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and Tonopah Aerle No. 271, Fraternal Order of Eagles. Owing to the suddenness of the news, no arrangements have been made by the local orders with regard to the funeral, but it is thought that a definite announcement will be received from San Francisco today. A large number of friends will leave for the coast to pay their last respects to the one whom they called a friend, and who was a friend in fact. If ever there was a person who was universally loved and who will be universally missed, this person is Dr. Hammond, whose soul has gone to join his Maker.

#### Paulham Takes Lone Trip Across Country

By Associated Press  
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 14.—A gray sky and a hawk-eyed young American climbing up to snatch from France the laurels for the "highest in the world" in a biplane, was what caused the sensation among 40,000 visitors at Aviation Camp this afternoon. Charles Hamilton was the man who started out to wrest the altitude record from Paulhan, who won it Wednesday with a height of 4,165 feet. That Hamilton didn't win it, is perhaps because he was brave enough to turn back from the night world above, and come down from a height of 500 feet saying, "My engine was not quite right but I'll try again." Paulhan careened wildly around the course while this was going on, trying to make a speed record for one lap, the only thing he hasn't been able to obtain at the meet. Not only did he fall below the Curtiss time, but in trying to descend too short in a circle the machine tilted and struck the ground, breaking one of the lower plane tips. Early in the afternoon Paulhan, ignoring the judges, sailed clear of the grandstand and went on a fifteen mile cross country journey to San Pedro. Before he retired for the day Paulhan took Courtlandt Bishop, president of the Aero club of America, as a passenger for a two lap journey around the course.

Paulhan's journey to San Pedro was unannounced and was unofficial. As the Frenchman drew near Wilmington, Long Beach and San

Pedro harbor, some one below divined what the strange sight was and soon Paulhan was greeted by a roar of whistles from the tugs and other craft in the harbor. He sailed above the wireless telegraph mast at the harbor entrance, and started back. As he appeared over the crowd again he received another welcome but the judges paid no attention to the performance. Paulhan himself didn't think the trip amounted to much. "Wait," he said, "until the big cross country trip." "Can you go as far as San Francisco?" he was asked.

"Oh, I could, but I'll go in the other direction."

The other events of the day included a speed trial on the course for what was considered fast time, 6:25 3-5; Beachey, 7:50. Curtiss broke the record for one lap and set the figure of 2:12 flat. Charles Willard made a perfect score of a hundred points in a contest of starting from a marked square. Charles Hamilton won the slow speed contest for one lap.

One of the most important events of the day was the attempt of Lieutenant Paul Beck, U. S. A. signal corps, to drop a bag of "dummy" ammunition into a measured space, from a height of 250 feet. The experiment was made in an effort to find whether in time of war it would be possible for an airship to drop bombs into gun pits on the coast, destroying the men and guns. Curtiss took Beck up, but the effort was a partial failure on account of engine troubles.